

# Minutes of the October 7, 2009 HP/FH Committee Meeting

## ***Attendance***

**Present:** Nancy Gregg (NG) Chair, Chris Hoffmann (CH) Recording Secretary), Flo Stern (FS), Claude Tellier (CT), Walter Wolnik (WW), Roy Rosenblatt (RR) Staff

**Others:** Donna Crabtree (AHA), Bill Breitbart (CEDAC)

**Absent:** Ellen Kosmer (EK), Jean Haggerty (JH)

## ***Actions:***

Called to order at 10:10am

Motion: The Housing Partnership supports efforts to maintain affordable housing at Rolling Green and urges that the town take action, with support from the Housing Partnership. CT/FS. Passed unanimously.

## ***Discussion:***

**Rolling Green:** Mr Breitbart and Ms Crabtree met to discuss with the committee prospects for maintaining affordable housing at the Rolling Green Apartments. Under current regulations, by having 41 units affordable, all 204 units count as part of Amherst's affordable housing stock.

In brief, were no easy ways to keep the units affordable if the owner decides that it would be more profitable to refinance and then rent all at market rates. Ms Crabtree mentioned the town might be able to produce a study to try to convince them they won't lose money. She said it might be worth spending up to \$10,000 for such a study. Comparisons with a similar situation in Northampton were brought up. Ms Breitbart pointed out that Northampton took over the property in question through eminent domain and could justify that since *all* the units in that case were affordable. On the other hand, public support was critical in Northampton and a similar drive to get public interest in the problem should be considered in Amherst.

**Homelessness:** More information was presented about the proposal to build housing for the homeless near Kendrick Park. This is possibly a \$4 million project. The pro forma counts on \$600K of CPA money. The Interfaith Housing project is willing to rive this project. Existing tenants would be relocated by CDC. Mr Rosenblatt noted that if all affordable housing projects we currently know of were to come to completion we would be at roughly 80% of the units we need to replace the loss of Rolling Green.

## ***Tasks:***

None.

***Next meeting:***

November 12th, 2009 at 9am, First Floor Mtg Room

***Adjournment***

Voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:10. CT/WW

***Submitted By***

Chris Hoffmann